

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached Replacement Sheets of drawings (4 of 7; 5 of 7 and 6 of 7) include changes to FIGURE 4, 5 and 6. These Replacement Sheets replace the original sheets, numbers 4 of 7, 5 of 7 and 6 of 7. The changes to the Figures are explained in detail below.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Office Action of June 22, 2010. All of the rejections are respectfully traversed. **Claims 44-78** are currently pending. **Claim 1** is amended. Amendment, reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Office Action

In the Office Action mailed June 22, 2010:

claims 44-78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reddy (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0227643) in view of Kato (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0036909) and further in view of Perkowski (U.S. Patent No. 6,961,712).

Interview

The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for participating in the telephone interview of October 12, 2010 to discuss claims. More particularly, the non-entered features of the kiosk were discussed including a "lockable marking-based output device" having a "secure output region for storing the output" until a "provided code" is used to verify an identification. Applicants submitted that providing physical/hard-copy output in high-traffic public areas, which are situated away from an office environment, has not been shown in the cited references. The Examiner stated that the RCE will institute a new search that is refocused around these amended features. Applicants furthermore spoke to the SPE on or about September 16, 2010 to determine whether another Examiner would take over examination of this case while extenuating circumstances caused the assigned Examiner to miss work. In that conversation, the SPE assured the Applicants that good faith efforts will be made by the Examiner to quickly identify allowable subject matter.

The Present Application

By way of a brief review, the present disclosure is related to a public access multimedia communications hub that can offer services in public spaces [0021], [0047]. The hub utilizes a security/authentication system for users [0022]. One advantage of the hub is a lockable printing feature [0024]. Print jobs are held on a storage medium until a user-provided code is entered [0024], [0049]. Alternatively, print output can be held in an assigned, secure output region until a user's arrival and identification is confirmed [0024], [0050]. The hub is preferably a fee-for-service multifunction kiosk, which includes print/scan/copy/storage/faxing capabilities [0031], [0033] and payment acceptance modules for access to such capabilities [0040]. Furthermore, the hub is capable of receiving data (for production of hard-copies) [0027] from and transmitting data to portable electronic devices in communication with the hub [0028] or to other electronic destinations. The hub is capable of accepting hard copy data for reproduction [0029]. Audio feedback devices can be employed for telecommunication purposes [0030]. A controller is in communication with at least one data and audio ports, a telephone module, a UI element (for audio file creation), user authenticator modules [0035], voice command modules [0036], dictation modules [0036], video input ports, cameras and video handling modules (for tele- and videoconferencing, video file creation, etc.) [0037], storage data drives [0039], optical media drives [0046], and other collaboration software that permits users an ability to connect and collaborate with personal electronic devices [0042], s.a., e.g., laptops, PDAs, mobiles, etc [0046]. A display interacts with users to display requested data [0041].

The preferred hub includes a chassis of at least one tower that houses engines, the controller, the display(s), storage devices, and ports [0043]. Navigation of a network is available through spoken command [0045] and various input devices [0049].

In operation, motion and/or pressure sensors sense approaching users, thus causing an wireless inquiry to the user's personal electronic device for identification verification [0049]. Other authentication modules can alternatively be employed [0049].

The Cited References

Reddy (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0227643)

Reddy is directed toward a system that provides interconnection of document processing devices to a network [0010]. The Reddy reference is related to a connection made between a document processing device and a token (i.e., a computer) by an interface, i.e., a communication link. The crux of the Reddy disclosure is directed toward the interface, which is a hand-held device [0058]-[0059] that functions as a router [0066]. The interface determines which port is available for network communication with a host computer [0044]. The interface can essentially be received in a port of a copier or similar document device, where it collects and manages information related to that copier for transmission to the host [0035], [0058]-[0059]. The interface performs tracking of projects, which can be stored for later collection, identifies users, identifies tokens (i.e., hand-held computers), and payment processing and information, etc. [0060]. The interface functions to connect copier and other document devices to a network [0068]. Users are then charged per byte of usage [0067].

An attached interface device terminal, including a display connected thereto, displays a list of alternate copiers available if the document handling device is being used [0091]. This terminal also receives codes entered there into for tracking departmental/financial/etc. projects [0070]. In summary, the interface is a means to bring a document handling device in network communication with a host. This interface identifies a set of signals to be used with the document processing device based upon information in an identification circuit associated with the device [0038]. The interface identifies the device it connects to [0038] for tracking information related to the copier output, etc.

Kato (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0036909)

Kato introduces the problem of conveyance of complicated instructions and selections on a traditionally sophisticated display on a multi-function peripheral (hereinafter "multi function machine") [0002]-[0008]. Kato is directed toward an interfacing of a multi function machine for receiving voice input and audio feedback [0009] while still capable of tracking a current position in a layered menu of multiple

layers [0010]. The interface includes a tree menu structure that generates separate (layered) menus for each document handling function [0034]. The multi function machine includes a jack for receipt of a headset having a microphone and earphones [0066]. Receipt of that headset in the jack causes the function control to switch modes [0066] to one that utilizes voice recognition and voice synthesis for selection of document handling features. A sound icon, associated with operational items, outputs to the headset when the position is moved to new operational items [0055]. The control unit activates the audio output unit to notify the user by a sound icon or a voice message of a confirmed operation [0070]. The function control unit observes a status of the multi function machine during handling, and it notifies the operator by outputting a sound icon or a voice feedback message of the status [0071]. In other embodiments, the control unit is incorporated in a computer [0073].

Perkowski (U.S. Patent No. 6,961,712)

Perkowski originated from conventional methods of consumer-product information dissemination between manufacturers and retailers (col. 1, ll. 38-39). Perkowski is related to electronic commerce (EC) merchandising (col. 2, ll. 5), and a problem of circulating advertising and marketing materials not reflecting new/current content in web-sites (col. 3, ll. 25-50). The Perkowski disclosure is directed toward an apparatus for collecting product-related information and transmitting and delivering the same between manufacturers and retailers (col. 4, ll. 30-31). An internet database provides a manufacturer-defined consumer-product directory that links end consumers to the supply and demand chain (col. 4, line 60 to col. 5, ll. 15). Any commercial product having an assigned Universal Product Number (UPN) is accessible on an internet based system where manufacturers simply link, update, and manage UPC numbers on a centralized database (col. 6, ll. 29-31, 57-62). In a retail shopping environment, a consumer product information access terminal at a station reads UPC numbers on products for sale in stores to access product related information from the internet for display on a screen (col. 7, ll. 40-45). Kiosks installed in the shopping environments have readers for reading the UPC numbers on the products and display the product-related information thereon the display screen (col. 7, ll. 50-56).

Amendments to the Specification

Paragraphs of the application are amended to include reference characters that were missing in the description portion, but originally presented in the FIGURES. Paragraph [0023] is amended to correct the security system to ref. character 40, which was included in original FIG. 2. Paragraph [0033] is amended to include ref. character 21 assigned to the audio input port, which is supported by original FIG. 2. Paragraph [0037] is amended to include ref. character 34 assigned to a camera, which is supported by original FIG. 2. Paragraph [0038] is amended to include ref. character 33 assigned to a display device, which is supported by original FIGS. 2 and 4-6. Paragraph [0043] is amended to include a ref. character 51 assigned to a work surface, which was illustrated in original FIGS. 4-6. Paragraph [0046] is amended to include reference characters 26 and 27 assigned to a parallel interface port and/or a serial interface port, respectively, which are supported in original FIG. 2. Finally, paragraphs [0050] and [0052] are amended to include ref. character 41 assigned to the secure output trays, which are supported by original FIGS. 4-6.

Amendments to the FIGURES

Reference character 40 in FIGURES 4-6 is replaced herein with reference character 50. The originally filed FIG. 2 includes a security system, 40. The original 40 of FIGURES 4-6 point towards a work surface. This work surface is described in paragraph [0043] of the application. Applicants replace the identifying reference character associated with the work surface in FIGS. 4-6 to maintain consistency with FIG. 1.

The Claims are Not Obvious

Claims 44-78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reddy (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0227643) in view of Kato (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0036909) and further in view of Perkowski (U.S. Pat. No. 6,961,712).

In the present Office Action, the Examiner maintains the primary and the secondary reference cited in the previous action, and includes a tertiary reference (Perkowski) for disclosing the previously presented limitation of a kiosk for operatively interacting with personal electronic devices that provide conferencing, production, and finishing services in a public environment.

The claim, as amended, includes features for a "lockable" marking-based output device and a "secure output region" for storing output until a user arrives and provides identification. The novelties of the present application is the lockable printer and/or secure output trays included as part of a kiosk that is placed in a public environment, away from an office. The lockable printing feature is described in original paragraph [0024]. Paragraphs [0024] and [0050] describes a first embodiment for holding print jobs in a storage medium until a user-provided code is entered. A second embodiment is described for assigning print jobs to a secure output region until the user arrives and confirms his/her identification.

Interactive Kiosks are terminals that provide users with access to information in high foot traffic settings, such as hotel lobbies or airports. See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interactive_kiosk. Kiosks were first introduced as self-service stations directed toward helping people find information. *Id.* Kiosks expand on the idea of a classic vending machine for self-checking out, e-ticketing, wayfinding, and vending. *Id.* The enclosure design and style aids in the functioning of the kiosk. *Id.* The following types of kiosks make up the 131,000 terminals in the U.S.: (1) a telekiosk, which is a publicly accessible device for communication with the intention of providing detailed local information; (2) a financial services kiosk, which is a bill-pay kiosk used for transactions; (3) a photo kiosk, which is an interactive kiosk for ordering and printing instant and other pictures; (4) an internet kiosk, which is a terminal that provides access to web pages; (5) a ticketing kiosk, which is used for automobile rental, cruise ships, and self-service train ticketing, etc.; (6) donation kiosks, which are used by non-profits for receiving donations; (7) movie ticket kiosks, which are used by theaters for pre-purchase and pick-up of tickets; (8) DVD and other vending kiosks, which are used by manufacturers to distribute electronic, cosmetic, and other items; and (9) wayfinding kiosks, which are used as building/campus directories. *Id.* The known art does not

provide for a chassis that houses a lockable marking device and/or a secure output region in a public environment.

As mentioned in the Application, portable computers enable people to work on the go; however, they do not offer printing services [0003]. To enable remote printing for users, lockable printing is available at kiosk locations [0007]. It is anticipated that at least a partial operation is performed at the kiosk before a user arrives at the kiosk destination. This partial operation may include storing the print job on a medium/memory until a user-code is provided. Alternately, this partial operation may include storing the print output in a secure output tray until a user's identification verification is confirmed.

Aspects of the presently amended features provide advantages to the kiosk that are not available in the known art. In a public environment situated at a location removed from an office location, a user may find him-/herself in an immediate need for accessing a physical/hard-copy of a document. An example may include a business traveler passing through an airport, wherein this traveler discovers a need to access work-related documents at his/her arrival destination. While there is a multitude of examples, the point is that public, high traffic environments do not include an option for retrieving the physical output. As mentioned herein, the "kiosk" concept originated as an expansion of "vending" devices. The present claim is directed to a kiosk that vends (i.e., distributes) personalized physical output at a destination removed from the standard outlets (i.e., office environment, home environment, library, school, etc.) known to make hardcopies available. A further advantage over the known art is directed toward the preprocessing actions that may occur prior to a user's arrival. The processing actions that may be instituted by a print job command that is communicated by a personal computer device to the kiosk before arrival, such that the user is not held up at the kiosk by various stages of printing. In the present claim, the action includes printing the output in advance of the user's arrival, and storing the output in a secure output tray/bin until the user can provide a user-identification.

A further advantage provided in the present claim, that is not available in the prior art, includes the secure storing of output until the user (i.e., owner of the physical output) arrives. There is no known kiosk that stores output in a public environment until

the recipient authenticates his/her identification. In this manner, content included in the output can remain private. Furthermore, there is a decreased risk that the output will not be inadvertently taken by another visitor to the kiosk.

Secure Output Region Missing in Cited References

The Examiner cites Perkowski for suggesting a kiosk for providing public access to a remote office space and services at kiosks in public spaces, wherein the kiosk is capable of operatively interacting with personal electronic devices for providing conferencing, production, and finishing services that are typically performed in an office work environment. In the present application, the services provided at and/or by the kiosk include at least the apparatuses or services (e.g., copying [0029], printing, faxing [0032], conferencing, etc.) available for completion of work product and/or entertainment compilation (e.g., CD/DVD burning of data, video, and audio [0005]; video games [0021]). *Work product is generally completed in a work space and/or office environment that includes all the apparatuses and conveniences typical of office spaces*; however, one aspect of the application is that services are made available in public (non-office, non-work space) environments for the completion of work product in a remote location not known to conveniently provide access to the apparatuses. In essence, the kiosk is an office hub positioned in a non-office environment.

One primary distinction between the kiosk of the present claim and the kiosk of Perkowski is that the latter is essentially a consumer price-check station in a retail shopping environment (col. 7, ll. 40-55). Therefore, it provides a function typically provided in that same environment. For example, the kiosk may include a credit card transaction terminal for consumer purchase transactions (col. 15, ll. 2-3), or it may include a scanner for reading a bar code (col. 4, ll. 65-67). The multi-media kiosk is used as a Cyber sales agent (col. 14, ll. 60-64) *in the retail environment that typically includes other stations that perform the same functions in that environment.*

In the present application, the user interacting with the kiosk is a person needing office equipment in a non-office environment that is generally remotely located from the office space. The user interacting with the kiosk in the Perkowski reference is a person needing retail information or completing a retail transaction in the retail shopping

environment. The conferencing, faxing, copying, *secure and lockable* printing actions completed by the user of the application kiosk do not overlap the price-check and purchasing actions completed by the user of the alternate kiosk in the Perkowski reference.

As previously discussed, the kiosk of the application provides multifunction services associated with production of office work product, wherein the reference provides purchase related services associated with retail shopping. (See above sections 1 and 2).

Section 2114 of the MPEP states that an apparatus must be distinguished the prior art in terms of structure. Accordingly, Applicants firstly contend that Perkowski fails to disclose the structure cited in the previously presented claims. FIGURE 3A2 of the Perkowski reference illustrates an exemplary kiosk including a stand-alone unit. There is not disclosed in the description, nor illustrated, *inter alia*, a kiosk including a first tower, a *second tower*, and a display extending *between the two towers*.

Applicants furthermore contend that Perkowski would not have commended itself to the inventor's attention in considering his or her invention as a whole and, therefore, it is not reasonably pertinent as according to MPEP 2141.01(a). MPEP section 2141.01(a) first states that classification is some evidence of "nonanalogy". Perkowski is categorized in class 705/27: "Data Processing: Financial, Business Practice, Management, or *cost/price determination*". The present application is categorized under class 725: "Interactive Video Distribution System. Another consideration designated by the courts is similarity and differences in structure and function of the inventions. MPEP 2141.01(a), citing *In re Ellis*, 476 F.2d 1370, 1372, 177 USPQ 526, 527 (CCPA 1973). See the preceding paragraph for a discussion on a difference in structure. A function of the present application is the "conferencing, production, and finishing services in a public environment removed from an office or a home" (cl. 1). A function of the kiosk of Perkowski is assisting in a completion of transactions in a retail shopping environment (col. 7, ll. 40-55). More specifically, Perkowski in its entirety is directed toward a problem of circulating advertising and marketing materials not reflecting new/current content in web-sites (col. 3, ll. 25-50). The Perkowski disclosure is directed toward an apparatus for collecting product-related information and

transmitting and delivering the same between manufacturers and retailers (col. 4, ll. 30-31). Retail product merchandising is not related to Applicants' endeavor. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Perkowski is an improper reference for use in citing against the limitation of a kiosk in a public environment as applied to conferencing, production, and finishing services.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present limitations, read in consideration with the argument submitted herein, place this application in condition for allowance.

Telephone Interview

In the interests of advancing this application to issue, the Applicant(s) respectfully request that the Examiner telephone the undersigned to discuss the foregoing or any suggestions that the Examiner may have to place the case in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is submitted all remaining claims (Claims 44-78) are now in condition for allowance. An early indication to that effect is therefore earnestly solicited.

☒ Remaining Claims, as delineated below:

(1) FOR	(2) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT LESS HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR		(3) NUMBER EXTRA
TOTAL CLAIMS	35	- 106 =	0
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	1	- 3 =	0


☒ This is an authorization under 37 CFR 1.136(a)(3) to treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for extension of time, as incorporating a petition for the appropriate extension of time.


☒ Payment for the required one-month extension of time fees is being charged to a Credit Card via the EFS Web.

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any filing or prosecution fees which may be required, under 37 CFR 1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 (but not 1.18), or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 24-0037.

Respectfully submitted,

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 10/21/10
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